

# e-Bugle

## Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 51

December 2004

No. 10



### Calendar

Wed., Dec. 29	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; topic TBD
Thurs., Dec. 30	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Wed., Jan. 5	Yard waste and Christmas tree pickup Kensington Coalition meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm; all residents invited to attend
Thurs., Jan. 6	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Sat., Jan. 8	Large item pickup
Mon., Jan. 10	Reception for state delegation, Town Hall, 7:30 Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (see Mayor's Letter, p 6)
Tues., Jan. 11	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Fri., Jan. 14	Film Society, Town Hall, 7 pm
Mon., Jan. 17	Special Council meeting, Town Hall, 7 pm; Penn Place parking (see Mayor's Letter, p 6)
Thurs., Jan. 20	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm
Sat., Jan. 22	Town Dinner, 6 pm (see article, p 4)
Sat., Jan. 29	Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7 pm

### Watching People Park

It was a good night for Perseids—very cold, very clear—and the December meeting of the Town Council began with a bit of chatter between Councilmembers and the audience—composed exclusively of your faithful reporter—about who had seen how many meteors that evening.

Eventually a few more townspeople drifted in, and the meeting got under way with the approval of the agenda and some announcements from the Mayor. Among the announcements: the Town Archivist, Barbara Shidler, has placed an impressive collection of gardening books on the third floor landing of Penn Place, and anyone who wishes can check them out. (Our archive programs, by the way, recently received a \$2500 grant.)

Parking strips have now been painted on Waverly Avenue; a diagonal pattern of strips along the tracks is next, and then seven parallel spaces will be painted along the other side. The Mayor announced these parking-related events with extraordinary vigor: "I'm rapidly coming to the conclusion that for daytime entertainment, nothing beats watching people park."

On Strathmore Avenue, "wedging" at the intersections with Clermont and Kenilworth proceeds apace. Whatever "wedging" may be, it apparently ensures that the area being "wedged" drains properly.

Our state delegates have been invited to the next Town Council meeting, on January 10, and

*(continued next page)*

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(continued from previous page)

we have some acceptances already. Anne Mizoguchi will be preparing a buffet dinner, and from 6:45 to 7:30 everyone in town is invited to hear about the upcoming legislative session and contribute to the discussion. "Where will this gathering take place?" a citizen asked the Mayor. "Right here," she replied, "in Action Center."

The Mayor also announced that the town is still looking for volunteers to sit on an important committee being formed to examine the future needs of the town infrastructure. Please consider stepping forward.

The "Mayors' bricks" for the Penn Place plaza should be here in a couple of weeks.

The Mayor will be out of town from December 20 to December 30, during which time Tony Altar will be Acting Mayor.

The Mayor concluded by announcing that Lola, the cat Chris Fischman brought back from Belgrade, was lost for a while. But now she's found.

Much of the remainder of the meeting (at least the two hours during which your reporter was there) was taken up with complaints about people parking in the driveway, or blocking the driveway, of the residents who live at 11010 Rokeby Avenue. Apparently some people are parking crazily in the newly busy area around the Black Market restaurant; some are driving too fast as well. "Where is the additional parking going to come from?" asked these residents.

Councilmember Keller said that the plan has been to move incrementally with parking and traffic elements in the area, but the Council acknowledged that things right now are unsatisfactory. Various solutions to various aspects of this complex problem were proposed: we could ask people who are at Penn Place all day to park at a distance; on Montrose, for instance.

But there don't seem to be any good short-term solutions, and the mood of the meeting

became rather tense, as measured in the increased use of archaisms ("gravamen," "bailiwick," "backings and forthings"). The Mayor proposed a special meeting in January on the subject; she will come up with a date.

In his Councilmember Report, Hans Wegner noted that the plantings have gone in on Strathmore Avenue, which is great, though some of the trees seem oddly sited.

Under Action Items: An emergency budget ordinance passed unanimously. A motion to make parking on the non-tennis-court side of Waverly illegal at all times also passed.

Councilmember Altar is going to look into the possibility of setting up an email communication system for Garrett Park (separate from the mailing list that Martin Trocki maintains through the Garrett Park Website—[www.garrettpark.org/misc/feedbk.html](http://www.garrettpark.org/misc/feedbk.html)). He also suggested placing a limit on how long Sold or Under Contract signs can remain in front of houses, though it seemed the sense of the Council that legislating these things wasn't the best way to go.

Margaret Soltan

## Garrett Park Book Club

The Garrett Park Book Club welcomes the attendance of all interested book lovers:

Friday, January 28, 2005, 8 pm, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon, at the home of Bette Runck, 301-946-9016.

Friday, March 4, 2005, 8 pm, *Empire Falls*, by Richard Russo, at the home of Sandra El-Haj, 301-942-7426.

For planning purposes, please call the hostess to confirm your attendance.

Hope to see you there!



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**

Co-presidents:	Gene Brantly Jack Mandel
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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by email. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

**Snow removal:** Winter is arriving as I write these notes. Our first snowstorm may have occurred by the time you read them. To assist our contractor, David Gregg, and Butch and Frank with our new truck, to keep our streets clear, please remember the following:

- We will make every effort to push back drive-ways and clear out snowbound cars. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

**Penn Place & Commuter Parking:** Ten parking spaces have been marked along the east side of Waverly Ave. The west side is now no parking at any time to ensure full access of emergency equipment. If all goes well, the commuter parking along the railroad tracks will be marked by the time you read this. As you have no doubt

observed, the increased activity at Penn Place has created some difficulties with traffic flow and parking. Please ensure that you park in designated spaces and do not straddle the lines. Careful parking in legal spaces will ensure a smooth flow of traffic and provide for the maximum number of spaces available. Thank you in advance for your help with this. Things should ease up when the holiday season ends.

**Strathmore Avenue:** The landscaping and plantings on the north side are largely in place, and the State Highway Administration has put down a temporary surface to prevent flooding at the intersections. At some point (we do not have a date yet), work will begin on the south side of the street, installing the new curbs, sidewalk, lights, and landscaping. The plan is still to complete the project by June. We'll see.

**Montgomery County Volunteer Center:** The MCVC has compiled a listing of ways to help others during the holiday season. To donate time, money, or gifts, call the Center (240-777-2600) or visit [www.montgomeryvolunteer.org](http://www.montgomeryvolunteer.org) on the Web. This information and the list of needs for December are also posted on the bulletin board in Penn Place.

Laura, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301-933-7488. (The office will be closed on Christmas Eve; Monday, December 27; and Monday, January 3.)

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator


Visit Garrett Park's Website:

[www.garrettpark.org/](http://www.garrettpark.org/)

You can receive emails about Garrett Park events by joining the Mailing List at the Website. And don't forget: Use the Mailing List to publicize your Garrett Park event.

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# Town Dinner Is Coming

This year's Town Dinner will be on Saturday, January 22, 2005, at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. Meeting, greeting, and munching will begin at 6 pm and formal eating at 6:30. As in past years, this is a super potluck supper. You are asked to bring your own serving and eating utensils, and one of the following for 8 to 10 people: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert. Again: *bring your own eating utensils!* A fee of \$5 will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, drinks, and paper goods.

Since space is limited, it is suggested that you call in your reservation and what you will be bringing to share to Barbara Shidler as soon as possible. If you would be willing to help in the decoration of the Town Hall on that morning (January 22, 10 am), please call Mary Moyer. Come join us in welcoming the new year in our town and having a say in who is elected to the next Citizens Association board (the vote will be the first order of business after dinner). And since this year's 4th of July theme was "Community: 50 years of the co-op nursery school, the swimming pool, and the *Bugle*," the dinner theme will probably not be anything like as complicated. If you have any suggestions, let me know!

Mary Moyer

# GPES

The school staff is in great need of a few weeks off, and probably the children are also. All the holiday cheer makes for little learning. The chorus concerts happened on December 13, the school sing-along is to be held the day the *Bugle* comes out, and then it's time for a break. Secretary Rosa Ponce took a job at White Oak Elementary School, so the hunt is on for a new attendance secretary, preferably one who speaks Spanish.

Students are enjoying a large selection of clubs this year: environmental, musical theater, yoga, cheerleading, computer and math games, graduation video, science, American sign language, and knitting, and for the second session add sports and art. The down side of having popular clubs is the full bus that has to take the children home.

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before September 30, 2005, it is time to think about registering that child for kindergarten starting next fall. Please call the school (301-929-2170) to get on the mailing list. You will be sent the registration materials in the spring and invited to attend the kindergarten orientation in March or April.

Mary Moyer



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## Arboretum Notes

At Penn Place: Barbara Shidler has kindly donated 200 bulbs, which were planted by the committee's No. 1 Bulb Team at the rate of 100 bulbs an hour. You will see them flower early this spring across from the Post Office service road—thank you, Ginger Mayhew. Butch, Frank, and TJ and JC Walter expertly prepared the foundation planting beds for the red twig dogwoods, which also gave us added dirt in which to plant still more bulbs along the Penn Place foundation and also in front—thank you, Henri Keller. For one of the two maple trees (*Acer goldspire*) in front of Penn Place, Butch had to literally jack hammer a hole through the compacted clay and rocks underneath the sod to plant it!

In Porcupine Woods: On November 20, your committee received 10 free American chestnut saplings, of only 619 that were propagated from seed this year by the Maryland chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation located at Sugarloaf Mountain. We planted them in Porcupine Woods and on MNCPPC park grounds near the basketball court, with each of the 10 protected by hardware cloth wire to keep deer and rabbits from eating the tender bark, leaves, and buds. Also, each sapling is tagged and numbered as part of a larger germ plasm plan to preserve survivors and a backcross breeding plan for disease resistance. The Maryland chapter is one of 10 privately supported state chapters of the American Chestnut Foundation, supervised by plant botanists at a research farm in southwest Virginia, where starting in 2007 they plan to harvest a disease-resistant strain that is genetically 15/16 American chestnut.

We are pleased to participate in part of this lengthy plan to bring the American chestnut tree back to its former glory and economic status. Just

before 1900, as you may know, approximately one in four trees of our eastern forests were the magnificent American chestnut tree. Yet except for a very few hardy survivors, all in the eastern United States succumbed to the airborne spores of chestnut blight (pandemic) within about 20 years. Chestnut was a wood more prized than white oak for lightness and straight grain strength, and more rot resistant than redwood. And in the winter, it was the sweet American chestnut that city people bought and ate after roasting on an open fire. Walt Whitman memorialized the American chestnut tree in his famous poem, which thousands of young schoolchildren had to memorize and recite alone or in unison (depending on the teacher).

On the calendar: We will host an **Earth Day Plant Swap** on Saturday, April 23, 2005, from 10 am to 4 pm at the basketball court. We are pleased to bring back the plant swap meet in response to popular demand. Please talk to Jennie Rothwell or Kay Hager about other event ideas for that day if you know you can't bring a plant.

Finally, trash cleanup kudos to Ken Schwartz and Frank Grefsheim.

## We're Green Again!

Our green banner this month is courtesy of Florence Gootenberg in honor of her husband, Santa Roy. We all do miss him and his jollity. We will be green for all this printing year, thanks to the generosity of our readers. However, if anyone would like to start the ball rolling for 2005/06 printing year, feel free to send in \$25 (the minimum donation required) or \$37 (the actual printing cost) by check to Mary Moyer, Box 98, Garrett Park, or put it in my front porch mail box. Thanks in advance.

Mary Moyer

## No New Year's Open House

The 2005 New Year's Day Open House will not take place, because of the jetsetting of many willing potential hosts to places far and wide; the Bahamas, Europe, California, South America, Chicago, and the Adirondacks were among the locales cited. Those in town seemed to be occupied with other parties or entertaining guests. If interest warrants, we will hold a reception to celebrate 2005 later in the year, when the travelers have returned to town. Meanwhile, look for upcoming information on this spring's Progressive Dinner.



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## Letter from the Mayor

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to recognize some of the wonderful gifts the town has received. Barbara Shidler has given the town her extensive garden library and had a bookcase made for the books. The garden library is in the third floor lobby of Penn Place, just outside the Town Office. You may sign out books or sit in the rocking chair that Jane and Ken Salomon have given to the town. The chair will move to the town front porch in nice weather and be joined there by a matching chair and table contributed by the Women's Club. The second floor town lobby has six oak chairs from Paul and Mary Jane Edlund's house, which were given to us by Kay Hager. The Blacks are planning to install fireplaces in the two small dining rooms in January. Nancy and Ken Schwartz have given the town a beautiful faux painted slate mantle, which Nancy found after an extensive search. It will be very similar to the mantel that was left in one of the rooms. The Garrett Park Citizens Association has offered money from the brick project to buy a picture rail for the town lobby so that local artists will be able to display their works. The GPCA donation will also help to frame some materials from the Archives, which will be hung in the front hall to provide a glimpse of Penn Place's history. We have received the gift of a concrete bench and bird bath with inlaid stained glass for the garden at the Town Hall from a nonresident who loves Garrett Park. The Cove Trust has given the town a grant of \$2500 to aid the Archives to preserve town history and public records. Andy Seferlis has donated a piece of granite that he cut and hand polished for a sign to be placed in the Penn Place Plaza. Mike Henley's gift of faithfully tending the plants every few days in the Town Office and Town Hall dates back to the 1980s. In addition to all these generous gifts, we continue to have many volunteers, including the Penn Place Committee, Women's Club, and Citizens Association "worker bees" and the Town Council, who give a great deal of time and talent to make this a delightful place to live. We are also amazingly fortunate to have a town staff of Ted Pratt, Butch Frost, Frank Breazeale, Laura Krupp, and

Barbara Shidler, who give so much more than we can ever compensate them for.

Parking and driving in town have unfortunately become major issues. Butch and Frank have been cleaning and striping parking spaces now that the leaves are down. We have installed some signs to make directions for parking clearer. A four-way stop and crosswalk will soon appear at the corner of Montrose and Waverly; these were requested by a petition to the Town Council by many residents. There will be a special Council meeting on January 17 to allow citizens to present their views about the restoration of the island in Park Place and how the parking along the area across from the train tracks should be handled. If you would like to give your views, please prepare your remarks in advance and come a bit early to sign up to speak. We will call on speakers in the order that they have signed in.

Please observe the handicapped parking spaces around Penn Place. Even though you are only going to be a few moments to dash in and get your mail, that might be the very moment someone who is handicapped will arrive and need the space in order to get into the building. Please drive slowly—remember the speed limit in town is 25 miles per hour. If we are a little patient and are mindful of each other, we can all enjoy Penn Place together.

On January 10, before the regular Council meeting, the town will be hosting our state delegation on the evening before they go to Annapolis for the 2005 legislative session. The Maryland Municipal League has three priority issues, all of which are important to us in Garrett Park. The league will be seeking (1) to restore the money for municipalities that was cut from the state budget by the Governor, (2) to improve communications between first responders such as fire and police departments, both county and state, in crisis situations, and (3) to allow local municipalities to bargain for whole communities to get better electricity rates for all the households of the communities. (You may have noticed that your electricity bill got bigger. Electricity rates are due to make at least another 15% increase July 1.) All these issues are important to us in Garrett Park. Please come at 7:30 for coffee and dessert, let your delegation know your views, and learn how we can best support their efforts in the coming legislative session.

I wish you a safe and joyful holiday.

Carolyn Shawaker

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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ On October 19, a son was born to former Garrett Parker Julie Miles and her husband (Randy) in Seattle, Washington. This birth continues the all-male string that former Garrett Parkers born in the late 60s and early 70s have maintained for some time now (these include Julie's sister Jen, the Ingham twins, Jessica Guernsey, Shannon and Brooke Almy, and Katie Koepenick)—12 boys out of 12 babies, just in that group!
- ♪ Mary Moyer would like to thank all the elves who helped put the finishing touches to the Do-It-Yourself Carolfest on December 3. The decorations were well done as usual, and Ronnie Sauvain did an excellent job with the refreshments. If anyone (especially men) would like to rehearse and sing with the small group next year, please get in touch with Mary. It's four rehearsals and then the program. She also thanks everyone for returning the carol books, especially the one that showed up in her mailbox the next day.
- ♪ From January 8 to February 26, Strathmore Hall will present the debut of *The Art of Music* from the Baltimore Museum of Art, featuring instruments from different countries and artwork that has musical instruments in it. *Encore*, a music-themed exhibition of invited artists, will also be on display at the same time. Call 301-581-5100 for more information.
- ♪ The Platais family of Clyde Avenue writes from far away San Jose, Costa Rica, that they have finally settled in after a year and a half. Gunars is back in the field with the World Bank working on payment for environmental services. Kerri is a part-time consultant for the centers of an international agriculture research consortium. They have a slight change in their mailing address, for those of you who wish to keep up with them: the Platais Family, SJO-311, 8266 NW 14th St., Miami, FL 33126.
- ♪ If you are at all curious, as one resident was, the white round cylinders capped with orange hats around the new Penn Place Post Office entrance are actually for future downspouts, if they are ever put in place.
- ♪ This year's Ecumenical Celebration for Christian Unity will be held on January 30, 3 pm, at the North Bethesda United Methodist Church on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. The homilist will be the Rev. Mark Ervin, Pastor of St. George Catholic Church in Valley Lee, Maryland. The 12 sponsoring congregations welcome everyone to attend the service. Call Joe Weiss for more information.

## Letter to the Editor

### Garrett Park Voting

If you're interested, you can see the returns from Garrett Park (precinct 04-08) at the Montgomery County Board of Elections Website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/elections/ElectionResultsGeneral2004/precint/0408-1.htm](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/elections/ElectionResultsGeneral2004/precint/0408-1.htm).

Here's a small sample:

PRESIDENT - VICE PRES  
Total Votes 1130

Bush-Cheney	REP	283	25.04%
Kerry-Edwards	DEM	832	73.63%
Cobb-LaMarche	GRN	3	0.27%
Badnarik-Campagna	LIB	1	0.09%
Peroutka-Baldwin	CON	1	0.09%
Nader-Camejo	POP	6	0.53%

These may help explain why Montgomery County Republicans call Garrett Park "the left bank of Rock Creek."

Ben Franklin

